



CITY OF DURHAM | NORTH CAROLINA

Date: October 7, 2014
To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: W. Bowman Ferguson, Deputy City Manager
From: Donald F. Greeley, Director, Water Management
Subject: Resolution of Support for the Jordan Lake Partnership and the Triangle Regional Water Supply Plan

Executive Summary:

In March 2008, the City Council adopted a Resolution Supporting Regional Partnerships for Water Supply Planning and the Establishment of a Western Water Intake on the B. Everett Jordan Reservoir. Following that action, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was developed and approved by 12 entities in the greater Triangle area. The MOU established Durham as the lead agency for general activities regarding the Jordan Lake Regional Water Supply Partnership and allows for Supplemental Articles to the MOU to define participation by some or all of the partners in further activities. To date, the Partnership has developed and completed several supplemental articles to support regional planning activities. A significant accomplishment recently completed is the final phase of the Triangle Regional Water Supply Plan (TRWSP). The report, developed by Triangle J Council of Governments Water Supply Planning staff in coordination with staff of JLP members, serves as the basis for Jordan Lake allocation requests of some partners. The TRWSP developed three regional alternatives for the 2045 and 2060 planning horizons and a single preferred water supply plan for the region which meets all Jordan Lake Partners' needs. The TRWSP recently received Honorable Mention in the Comprehensive Planning – Multijurisdictional or Regional Project category of the 2014 North Carolina Marvin Colling Planning Awards Program sponsored by the North Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association (NC-APA).

In order to continue to collaborate on regional water supply projects, the JLP technical team is requesting formal extension by all governing boards of the existing MOU through June 2019. There are a number current projects that support the long range planning efforts of the Partners which include Phase 2 of the Interconnection Project (10 partners) and the Western Intake Feasibility Study (4 partners). Additional studies are anticipated once the Environmental Management Commission makes a decision on allocation requests from the Jordan Lake water Supply Pool (anticipated November 2015).

Recommendations:

The administration recommends that the City Council:

- Adopt the Resolution supporting the Jordan Lake Partnership and the Triangle Regional Water Supply Plan; and
- Authorize the City Manager to execute Addendum No. 1 to the Memorandum of Understanding Supporting a Regional Partnership for Water Supply Planning and Potential Use of the B. Everett Jordan Reservoir through June 30, 2019.

Background:

In March 2008, Durham City Council adopted a Resolution Supporting Regional Partnerships for Water Supply Planning and the Establishment of a Western Water Intake on the B. Everett Jordan Reservoir. The City committed to taking a leadership role in the partnership for regional water supply planning and to work with potential partners in the establishment of a western Jordan Lake water intake and possibly build an associated water treatment facility. Further, the City committed to proceed with the negotiation of Interlocal Agreements to accomplish the activities of the Partnership. The Memorandum of Understanding was approved by Durham City Council at the February 16, 2009 Council meeting and has been approved by 12 additional partnering jurisdictions: towns of Apex, Cary, Hillsborough, Holly Springs, Morrisville and Pittsboro, Chatham County, Orange County, Wake County, Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA), and the cities of Sanford and Raleigh.

As the lead agency, the City of Durham Department of Water Management serves as the Partnership's fiscal agent. Via this mechanism, the Partnership engaged the services of the Water Resources Planning group at Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) to develop a comprehensive regional water supply plan. The planning document – Triangle Regional Water Supply Plan (TRWSP) – has been completed; the Executive Summary is attached for review. In addition to serving as a long-range water supply planning document for the Region, the plan also serves as a basis for Round 4 Jordan Lake Allocation Requests for several partners. The TRWSP recently received Honorable Mention in the Comprehensive Planning – Multijurisdictional or Regional Project category of the 2014 North Carolina Marvin Colling Planning Awards Program sponsored by the North Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association (NC-APA).

The Partnership has also conducted a number of other projects to support implementation of the long-range plans such as the Phase 1 Interconnection Study (complete) and the Phase 2 Interconnection Study (underway). Additional work currently underway includes a feasibility study for an additional intake on the western side of Jordan Lake which would potentially serve Chatham County, Durham, Orange Water and Sewer Authority and Pittsboro.

In order to continue to collaborate on regional water supply projects, the JLP technical team is requesting formal extension by all governing boards of the existing MOU through June 2019. The team also requests that the governing boards of the participating jurisdictions adopt the resolution supporting the TRWSP and its use in region and basin-wide planning efforts. It is widely believed that such support will lend even greater credence to the TRWSP and resulting allocations and plans as they are reviewed by DENR/Division of Water Resources and the Environmental Management Commission.

Issues and Analysis:

In addition to the recognition by the NC-APA, the TRWSP has been applauded by DENR/Division of Water Resources staff as an outstanding example of cooperation and coordination of regional planning for the continued reliability of public water supply sources in the Triangle Region. Through this collaborative effort, Partners have maximized resources and produced peer-reviewed technical data that supports requests for additional water supply from Jordan Lake that can be supported by all partners. Maintaining this level of commitment to collaboration and cooperation is paramount to ensuring a long-term sustainable and secure regional water supply for the Research Triangle Region.

Alternatives:

Alternative: Do not adopt the resolution supporting the TRWSP and/or authorize the extension of the MOU. Failure to support the TRWSP could reflect negatively on the EMC's consideration of the City's request for additional water supply from Jordan Lake. Declining to authorize the City Manager to execute the extension of the MOU could significantly hinder the Partnership's on-going collaborative efforts for secure and sustainable water resources for the greater Triangle area.

Financial Impacts:

Participation in the Jordan Lake Partnership provides significant cost-sharing opportunities for the City of Durham. There are no specific impacts associated with the extension of the MOU or with support of the TRWSP.

SDBE Summary:

No SDBE goals are required for this item.

Attachments:

Resolution Supporting JLP and TRWSP

JLP Addendum No. 1 to MOU

Executive Summary for TRWSP